Forest land for tribals in Kerala

1825. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has submitted any request for distribution of forest land to the tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would give'permission to allot vested forests to the landless tribals in kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government of Kerala submitted a proposal to this Ministry during the year 1999 for diversion of 800 ha. of private forest vested in Government in various districts of Kerala for distribution to iandless tribals. The proposal was not in the prescribed format and therefore the Government of Kerala was requested to submit the proposal in proper format.

This year, a proposal involving diversion of 12196.1829 ha. of forest land in kasargode, kannur, Wayanad, Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode districts of Kerala for resttlement of tribals has been received from the Government of Kerala. The proposal was found lacking *m* compensatory afforestation scheme and therefore, returned to the State Government.

(c) and (d) Once the complete information pertainig to the proposal submitted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, is received from the State Government, it can be discussed by the Forest Advisory Committee, a statutory body constituted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and thereafter suitable decision taken in the matter.

Environmental clearance to Cement Plants in H.P.

1826. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for clearance for Cement Plants at Chamba and Sunder Nagar in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T R. BAALU): (a) and (b)Yes, Sir. M/s Larsen &Toubro and M/s Harish Chandra had earlier submitted proposals seeking environmental cleamace for setting up 1 MMTPA Capacity Cement Plants at Chamba and Sunder Nagar in Himachal Pradesh respectively.The proposal of Larsen &Toubro was not considered as the linked mining and forestry proposals as well as supplementary environmental information were not available for comperhensive assessment. Recently, the matter has been reviewed and company has been asked to submit complete information including updated EIA report for considering environmental clearance. The proposal of M/s Harish Chandra was not granted environmental clearance and the proposal returned as the proposed project site at Maloh, Sunder Nagar was not acceptable.

Laboratory for conservation of endangered species in A.P.

1827. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Government have requested to extend financial assistance to the "Laboratory for conservation of endangered species" in CCMB;

(b) if so, the details of the request; and

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Ministry of Environment and Forest for providing financial assistance for the "Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species" being established by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology at Hyderabad. Since the activities to be carried out by the proposed Institute are high-tech in nature and fit into the mandate of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the Ministry can support and construction of Laboatory only after the DBT and CSIR give their concurrence to provide necessary infrastructure for managing the laboratory.